

facts (3. p. 139), which, he says, tend to show that the bleaching of the body and atrophy of the eyes, as well as the adaptation to a life in darkness, may have been induced after but a few generations, perhaps but one or two only, resulting in the comparatively rapid evolution of cave-species; but I am unaware of any facts to shed light upon the possible length of time that might ensue to regain organs that have suffered decadence.

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12. —. "On a new Species of *Phreatoicus*," *op. cit.* xiii. part 1.
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14. —. "On *Phreatoicus australis* from Tasmania," Victorian Naturalist, xvii. no. 6.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

A Handbook of British Birds. By J. E. HARTING, F.L.S., F.Z.S.
New and Revised Edition. Pp. xxxi+520 and 35 Plates.
London: John C. Nimmo, 1901.

THIS book should find a place in the library of every working ornithologist, for it contains much that is not to be found in any other work of the kind with which we are acquainted.

It is primarily intended as a source of quick reference as to the precise status of every species which has occurred in Great Britain and Ireland to the end of 1900. Although we notice some omissions, perhaps inevitable in a work of this kind, perfect reliance may be placed on the work as a whole. Mr. Harting has done much more

than give us a mere list of detailed occurrences of rare birds or bald commonplace statements of facts concerning residents, for field-notes of an extremely interesting character are copiously distributed throughout its pages.

Our avifauna, from various causes, is being slowly depleted, and no one, turning over the pages of the volume, can fail to realize that we owe Mr. Harting a great deal for having rescued from oblivion facts of the greatest interest concerning many species which have long since ceased to be more than occasional visitors to our shores, but which were at one time very common birds. Scarcely less valuable are the notes on the derivation of the names of birds, such as the Capercaillie, Solan Goose, Reeve, and Spoonbill, for instance; for they represent much laborious research in fields inaccessible to most of us.

The book is well bound and well printed, and furthermore is illustrated by 35 Plates giving coloured figures of the heads (and outlines, in many cases, of the feet) of most of our British birds. We cannot but feel that they could be very well dispensed with and so reduce the cost of the work; if they are to be retained more must be added, so that *all* the undoubted residents at least are included, and several more representing immature plumages must be added. Most of the figures are exceedingly good, some are exceedingly bad: none were drawn specially for the work, and all have appeared before in a Dutch work: finally, they were not drawn (save one or two) by Schlegel, as is stated on the titlepage, but by Keulemans. As to their arrangement, we venture to think it would have been better to place them all together at the end of the volume, instead of distributing them between every ten pages or so.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Moore's 'Lepidoptera Indica.'

To the Editors of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.'

GENTLEMEN,—Enquiries having reached me for a continuation of my notes on this book ('Annals,' Dec. 1894), I beg to enclose you the information desired by my correspondents, as it is of general public service. As the parts are supplied direct by the publisher to the Museum, the dates of receipt here given may be regarded as within a few days of the actual date of publication.

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Pt.	XX. pp. 177-192.	14 Jan. 1895.	
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	XXIII. 233-248.	20 Sept. „	Not 10 Apr. 1895, as stated on p. 233!